

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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North Korean Army Railroad Command

1. In December 1952 the headquarters of the North Korean army's Railroad Command was at YD-267329, near Changsan-ni (N 39-07, E 125-37) (YD-2633). This command was organized in February 1952 as the result of a conference between the North Korean Ministers of Transportation and National Defense and was responsible for the rehabilitation, reconstruction, and protection of railroads throughout North Korea. The commander was PAK Yi-wan.¹ The command had the following units:
 - a. The 998 Army Unit.²
 - b. The 188 Army Unit.³
 - c. The 584 Army Unit,⁴ with the 1 and 2 Brigades which functioned as rehabilitation units. Units of the 1 Brigade were stationed at Manp'ojin (N 41-09, E 126-17) (BA-7259), Sinuiju (N 40-06, E 124-23) (XE-1839), Sunch'on (N 39-25, E 125-56) (YD-5267), Kaesong (N 37-58, E 126-33) (BT-8505), Kowon (N 39-26, E 127-15) (CU-4966), and Wonsan (N 39-09, E 127-27) (CT-6634). Units of the 2 Brigade were stationed at Unggi (N 42-21, E 130-24) (FB-1589), Wonsan, and Ch'orwon (N 38-15, E 127-12) (CT-4335).

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SECRET

- 2 -

- d. The 842 Army Unit, the Railroad Security Division.
- e. The 22 Independent Brigade.

The 842 Army Unit

2. In November 1952 the 842 Army Unit, attached to the headquarters of the Railroad Security Division,⁵ was in the vicinity of Obong-ni (YC-4807), near Upch'on-dong (N 38-00, E 125-49) (YC-4709). The strength of the unit was 1,000 men. They were equipped with 45 anti-aircraft guns which were along the Yonan (N 37-54, E 126-10) (BS-5198) Haeju (N 38-02, E 125-42) (YC-3713) railroad line. Supplies were transported to the unit from Haeju every night.
3. In December 1952 the 842 Army Unit of the Railway Security Division was under the command of Colonel KANG Pyong-hak and consisted of the following units:
 - a. The Rear Service Department.
 - b. The Political Department.
 - c. The Security Department.
 - d. The Communications Unit.
 - e. The 5 Regiment⁶ with units at P'yongyang, Yangdok (N 39-13, E 126-39) (BU-9743), Op'a-ri (N 39-20, E 125-38) (YD-2757), Haeju (N 38-02, E 125-42) (YC-3713), and Sinmak (N 38-25, E 126-14) (BT-5855).
 - f. The 6 Regiment⁶ with units at Sinanju (N 39-36, E 125-36) (YD-2386), Suk-ch'on (N 39-24, E 125-37) (YD-2564), and Manp'ojin.
 - g. The 7 Regiment⁶ with units at Wonsan, Hamhung (N 39-54, E 127-32) (CV-7517), and Changjin (N 40-23, E 127-15) (CV-5171).
 - h. The 8 Regiment⁶ with units at Ch'ongjin (N 41-47, E 129-49) (EB-6826), and Hoeryong (N 42-26, E 129-45) (EB-6298).
 - i. The Supply Battalion.
 - j. The Engineering Battalion.

The 7 Regiment (837 Army Unit)

4. On 23 November 1952 the headquarters of the 7 Regiment, the 837 Army Unit, attached to the North Korean Ministry of Rail Transportation, was at the foot of a hill 2 kilometers north of Yongp'ung-ni (N 40-05, E 127-58) (DV-1237). The strength of the regiment was 2,300 troops. The commander was Colonel KO Chong-hwan (7559/1350/3562); the adjutant was Junior Lieutenant KIM In-kun (6855/0088/2704). The unit was guarding the rail line between Hongwon (N 40-02, E 127-57) (DV-1032) and Hamhung (N 39-54, E 127-32) (DV-7517). The 1 Battalion was 6 kilometers south of the regimental headquarters. The 2 Battalion was 8 kilometers north of Hungnam (N 39-50, E 127-37) (CV-8210) between Hungnam and Hongwon. The 3 Battalion was 6 kilometers south of Hungnam between Hungnam and Hamhung.

SECRET

SECRET

- 3 -

The 1 Rail Repair Brigade

5. On 8 December 1952 the headquarters of the 1 Rail Repair Brigade, attached to the North Korean Ministry of Transportation, was at Uiam-ni (N 39-02, E 125-48) (YD-4224). Component battalions of this brigade were scattered throughout North Korea. Each battalion consisted of approximately 700 to 800 men. More than half of the men were former ROK soldiers. The locations of four of the battalions were as follows:

- a. The 3 Battalion, the 891 Army Unit, at Ch'onggye-dong (N 39-09, E 126-06) (BU-4937).
- b. The 5 Battalion, the 893 Army Unit, near Yongyon-dong (N 39-21, E 126-28) (BU-8258).
- c. The 7 Battalion, the 895 Army Unit, at Wöhung-ni (N 39-34, E 127-16) (CU-5181).
- d. The 9 Battalion, the 897 Army Unit, at Sindong-ni (N 39-54, E 127-28) (CV-6917).

Train Repair Section, Haeju Branch, P'yongyang Railroad Control Department

6. In mid-November 1952 the Train Repair Section of the Haeju Branch of the P'yongyang Railroad Control Department⁷ was in dugouts at YC-411128, near Sungma-dong (N 38-02, E 125-45) (YC-4113). Fifty people, 44 men and 6 women, were working in the section. The section operated 24 hours a day with two shifts. It was headed by Captain PAE Ki-ch'ol (4101/1015/0072),⁸ aged 45. The assistant chief was Lieutenant MUN Yong-su (2429/3057/3178), aged 35. Other personnel in the section included an administrative officer, a finance officer, a labor administrator, a welfare clerk, and a liaison man. A technical sub-section, headed by a lieutenant, included the following 8-man squads: an iron smith squad, a carpenter squad, a regular repair squad, a freight car squad, and a train and inspection squad. Two members of the train inspection squad rode on each train and inspected cars at each station in the area. Minor repairs were made by the inspectors and badly damaged cars were turned over to a mobile repair team. Couplers were very frequently broken. The section chief received 1,400 won per month; the assistant chief, 1,220 won per month; and the inspectors, from 920 to 1,220 won per month.

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